

NONPAC minutes for July 15, 2008

Hi Neighbors and Friends of FMNA,
See Tom Jacobsen's notes from last night's NONPACC Meeting. Thanks Tom!!

Julie Graybill
Secretary, Faubourg Marengo Neighborhood Association

Last night's meeting was presided over by our new District Commander, Major Michael D. Glasser. It was his second NONPACC meeting with us since taking command of the district on June 1. His objective was to give us an overview of developments in the district over the last six weeks and stress some of his priorities.

* Number 1 priority is robberies, both personal and property, but especially the former. He noted that considerable headway has been made in that respect, but there is more work to be done. Armed robberies have gone down by 17% but are still 3% higher (year over year), according to the latest stats. Simple robberies have gone down by 11%, and 5% year over year.

* Traffic enforcement is another priority. He recited the number of citations issued for traffic violations, a dramatic increase year over year.

* District II compares very well with other districts in the city except in the areas of burglaries and thefts. But he noted that of 130 recent auto burglaries, 85 took place because the car was left unlocked! The m.o. of thieves is simply to move along down a street trying each car door handle until they find one that is open.

* The peak time for criminal activity seems to be between 1 am and 9 am. Glasser's aim is for our officers to be more proactive than reactive, to anticipate where certain crimes are likely to occur. He gave a couple of examples of how they are predicting "target-rich" areas for armed robberies.

* Glasser also talked about how they have focused on one particularly bad neighborhood for robberies (around River Bend) and the success that they have had. Several people in attendance at the meeting confirmed that there had been a dramatic improvement in that respect. Glasser says that they will be focusing on other neighborhoods in the same way in the future.

* "Police activity in the district has picked up," he said, noting that the number of arrests per week has risen from 125 to 225. There were, incidentally, two drug-related arrests in our neighborhood in June: 1) at 3663 Tchoupitoulas on June 13, and 2) on corner of General Taylor and Tchoupitoulas on June 24.

* Reminder: PLEASE CALL 911 IF YOU SEE ANY SUSPICIOUS PEOPLE OR ACTIVITIES IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD. And remember that the 911 operators are there to take information. If one is surly or indifferent, ask to speak to a supervisor.

* "I love solving crimes, but I like preventing them better," Glasser concluded. Personally, I would add that my initial impression of the new commander is favorable. Beware of a dry sense of humor...

The June crime stats will be available via an email blast. Check www.googlegroups.com (NOPD2emailblasts).

Until next month, be cool....

Tom Jacobsen